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THE WALKING DEAD™

THE GOVERNOR SPECIAL

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Previously:

Rick and the rest of the group have finally found shelter from the zombie hordes in a prison. But they are far from safe. When a helicopter crashes nearby, Rick, Glenn and Michonne investigate, only to find someone else has made it to the crash site first... and taken any survivors with them...

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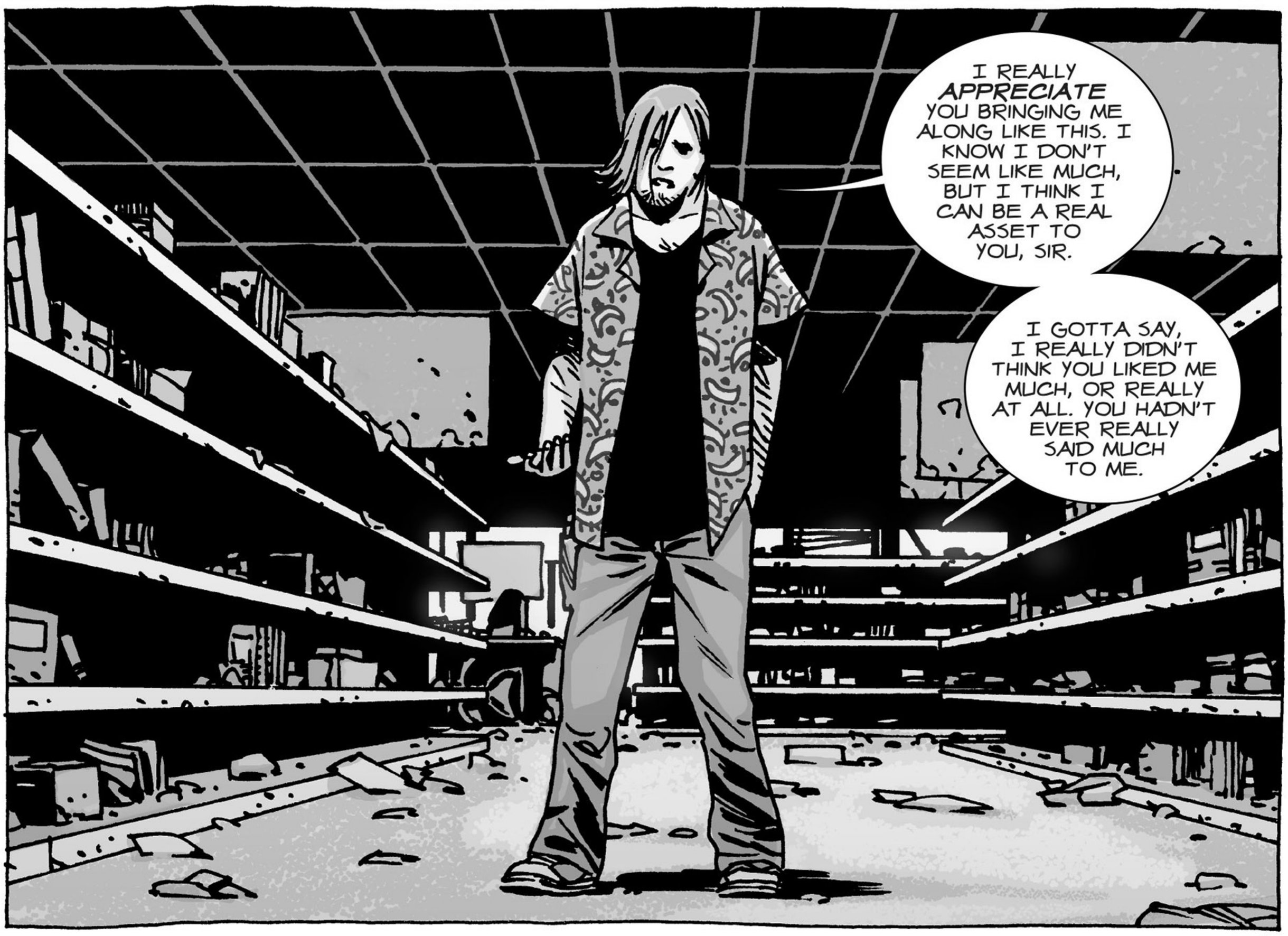
WAL ✦ MART


I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU BRINGING ME ALONG LIKE THIS. I KNOW I DON'T SEEM LIKE MUCH, BUT I THINK I CAN BE A REAL ASSET TO YOU, SIR.
I GOTTA SAY, I REALLY DIDN'T THINK YOU LIKED ME MUCH, OR REALLY AT ALL. YOU HADN'T EVER REALLY SAID MUCH TO ME.

MEGAN AND I, AND THE REST OF US, WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOU TAKING US IN.
IF THERE'S EVER ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP OUT, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO LET ME KNOW.
OKAY, SCOTT...

...HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS SO WE CAN GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

ACTUALLY, YOU SHOULD KILL THAT THING FIRST.

WHAT? HUH?

YEAAGH!

BLAM!

=HUFF!=

=HUFF!=

=HUFF!=

NOW HURRY, THIS PLACE WILL BE SWARMED IN A FEW MINUTES.

STEADY.

STEADY.

THERE.

THUMP!

WHAT?

YOU HIDING A GIRL BACK THERE OR SOMETHING?

OR SOMETHING.

IGNORE IT.

WHERE YOU GOING TO GET ENOUGH FISH FOR THOSE TANKS NOW?

NOT FOR FISH.

THEN WHAT?

I'VE BEEN LOOKED UPON TO LEAD THIS PLACE... TO BECOME *THE GOVERNOR,* AS THESE PEOPLE HAVE STARTED CALLING ME.

IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I'VE HAD TO BECOME SOMEONE I'M *NOT.* I'VE HAD TO BE STRONG AND DECISIVE...

I'VE HAD TO BE... *BRUTAL.*

IT'S BEEN HARD FOR ME TO PUSH MYSELF INTO DOING THIS. I BELIEVE I'VE HIDDEN IT WELL...

...BUT IT'S JUST NOT IN MY NATURE TO BE SO... RESILIENT.

UM... COULD HAVE FOOLED ME...

EXACTLY. I'VE GOT TO PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE HORRORS OF THIS WORLD... I'VE GOT TO TEMPER MYSELF LIKE *STEEL* AGAINST THEM.

THAT'S WHERE THESE TANKS COME IN.

I'M GOING TO FILL THESE TANKS WITH HORRORS AND I'M GOING TO *MAKE* MYSELF STARE AT THEM...

...AND I'M GOING TO STARE AT THEM UNTIL IT DOESN'T SCARE ME ANYMORE... UNTIL I'M USED TO IT, AND IT'S NOT HARD TO LOOK AT THEM...

...UNTIL IT *AMUSES* ME.

THEN I'LL BE READY FOR THE WORLD OUTSIDE... AND WHATEVER I HAVE TO DO TO KEEP WOODBURY TOGETHER.

THEN I'LL LIVE UP TO MY NEW NAME.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PUT IN THEM THEN?

WELL, I WAS THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF *SEVERED HEADS.*

...

STARTING WITH *YOURS.*

YOU MEAN LIKE ANOTHER *CAMP*-- CLOSER TO THIS AREA THAN *WE* ARE?

WOULDN'T WE HAVE *SEEN* THEM BEFORE *NOW?*

HOW MANY OF THEM DO YOU THINK THERE WERE? I SEE AT LEAST *THREE*--NO *FOUR* DIFFERENT KINDS OF SHOES.

WITH THE MUD LIKE IT IS, THOUGH--I CAN'T REALLY TELL, THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A DOZEN OF THEM. THERE'D HAVE TO BE A *FEW* IF THEY CARRIED INJURED PEOPLE OUT OF THIS HELICOPTER.

RICK? MICHONNE? WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK?

GUYS?

GUYS?!

GUYS-- WAIT UP!

WOW--YOU'RE *SPEECHLESS.*

IT'S A *SIMPLE* OFFER, LORI. I THINK I WANT TO *BE* WITH YOU--YOU AND RICK. I MEAN, IT'D BE *LIKE* WE WERE MARRIED, BUT THERE WOULDN'T BE A CEREMONY OR ANYTHING.

THAT'D BE TOO *WEIRD.*

CAROL--I JUST DO *NOT* KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

YOU COULD SAY *YES*--OR THAT YOU'LL *THINK* ABOUT IT AT THE VERY LEAST.

YOU *CARE* ABOUT ME, DON'T YOU? I MEAN--I COULDN'T HAVE READ YOU *THIS* WRONG, COULD I?

CAROL, WE'RE *FRIENDS* AND WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER, THAT MUCH IS TRUE. THERE HASN'T BEEN A DAY IN THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS THAT WE HAVEN'T AT LEAST *SEEN* EACH OTHER... SO WE'VE GOTTEN CLOSE.

BUT I THINK I'M STARTING TO REALIZE, WITH ALL THAT'S GOING ON--SURVIVING, LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDERS ALL THE TIME, BEING ON THE RUN... IT'S BECOMING CLEAR TO ME THAT WE JUST DON'T *KNOW* EACH OTHER VERY WELL.

WE HAVEN'T HAD *TIME* TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER... NOT REALLY.

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN?*

I DON'T KNOW. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY SIBLINGS I HAD? OR--OR WHERE I WENT TO SCHOOL? DO YOU--I DON'T KNOW--DO YOU KNOW WHO MY PARENTS WERE OR WHERE I GREW UP?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOUR FAVORITE FOOD IS.

HOW IMPORTANT IS MY FAVORITE FOOD IF I'M NEVER GOING TO GET A CHANCE TO EAT IT EVER AGAIN?

IT'S NOT *JUST* THAT. IT'S--LISTEN TO ME. WE *RELATE* TO EACH OTHER--BECAUSE WE HAVE A SHARED TRAUMA. WE'VE WATCHED THE WORLD WE KNEW CRUMBLE AROUND US--*TOGETHER.*

WHEN WE TALK--WE DON'T TALK ABOUT *US,* WE TALK ABOUT OUR SITUATION. JUST BECAUSE WE LIKE EACH OTHER AND WE *RELATE* TO EACH OTHER DOESN'T MEAN WE LOVE EACH OTHER--AT LEAST NOT IN THE WAY *YOU'RE* THINKING.

JESUS *CHRIST,* CAROL--I'M FROM A SMALL TOWN IN KENTUCKY. DID YOU *REALLY* THINK I'D GO FOR THIS?

HOW COULD-- WHY ARE YOU SAYING THESE THINGS, LORI?

HOW DID YOU *HONESTLY* EXPECT ME TO REACT TO THIS INSANE PROPOSAL?

HONESTLY?

HOW EXACTLY WOULD THIS WORK OUT? WHAT WOULD OUR *CHILDREN* THINK? CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW A LIVING ARRANGEMENT LIKE THIS WOULD SCAR THEM FOR *LIFE?!*

JESUS, CAROL! ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT *SOPHIA* AT *ALL* ANY MORE?!

HOW DARE YOU?!

CAROL-- *WAIT!*

DID WE INTERRUPT SOMETHING?

SORRY, IT WAS GETTING LATE AND WE WANTED TO GET BEN AND BILLY INTO BED SO WE THOUGHT WE'D BRING THE KIDS BACK.

C'MON, SOPHIA. IT'S TIME TO GET YOU TO BED.

GOOD NIGHT, SOPHIA.

WHAT WAS ALL *THAT* ABOUT? IS SHE OKAY?

I DON'T THINK SO. NO.

NOT ANYMORE.

C'MON, CARL... LET'S GET YOU INTO BED.

IT'S GETTING LATE. ARE THEY NOT BACK YET?

NO.

THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE.

HM. GETTING DARK.

YEAH.

SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO *NOW?* I MEAN, IT SURE DOESN'T *LOOK* LIKE THEY'RE GONNA BE BACK SOON. YOU FOLLOW ME?

WELL, WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO *STAY* OUT HERE UNTIL THEY GET BACK. IF THEY COME BACK IN THAT CAR WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO *BE* HERE TO OPEN THIS GATE BEFORE THOSE CORPSES PILE UP AROUND THEM.

THE THING IS, WE NEED TO BACK *AWAY,* OR BETTER YET... MOVE DOWN ABOUT TWENTY FEET AWAY FROM THE GATE. THAT WAY THE ZOMBIES THEY LURED AWAY FROM THE GATE EARLIER TODAY WON'T MAKE THEIR WAY BACK THERE TOO *SOON.*

OKAY. I'LL MOVE THE LAWN CHAIRS DOWN.

THANKS FOR JUST *LEAVING* ME BACK THERE. WHAT'S UP WITH *THAT?*

SORRY, GLENN. I WANTED TO SEE WHERE THESE PEOPLE *WENT.* THE IDEA OF MEETING OTHER SURVIVORS HAS ME MORE THAN A *LITTLE* EXCITED.

I DON'T THINK I *NEED* TO REMIND YOU GUYS THAT WE'VE GOT LESS THAN TEN MINUTES OF TWILIGHT LEFT AND THEN IT'S GOING TO BE PRETTY DAMN *DARK* OUT HERE. I'D KINDA LIKE TO GET *HOME.*

BESIDES, HOW *EXACTLY* WOULD WE BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHERE THESE PEOPLE *WENT?* I THINK I LEFT MY BLOODHOUND BACK AT THE PRISON.

WELL, WE AT LEAST KNOW WHAT *DIRECTION* THEY WENT IN.

GREAT--SO WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU GUYS WANT TO *DO* WITH THIS NEWFOUND INFORMATION?

WE SHOULD PROBABLY DISCUSS THAT.

AS MUCH AS I *HATE* THE IDEA OF NOT GETTING BACK TO THE PRISON TONIGHT AND LEAVING EVERYONE TO *WORRY*--I THINK WE SHOULD FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THIS.

FOR ONE THING, IF THEY'RE *CLOSER* THAN WE WERE... WALKING *THERE* MIGHT BE QUICKER THAN GETTING BACK TO THE PRISON.

ALSO--THESE PEOPLE COULD HAVE *CARS* AND *GAS* AND WHATEVER AND COULD DRIVE US BACK TO THE PRISON TONIGHT. HELL, THAT MAY HAVE BEEN *THEIR* HELICOPTER.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK?

I'M WITH YOU. LET'S DO IT.

OH, RIGHT-- LIKE I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO THE PRISON *ALONE.* LET'S GO.

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, ANYWAY.

OKAY, LET'S MOVE *FAST.* I DON'T WANT TO BE OUT HERE IN THE DARK ANY MORE THAN WE *HAVE* TO BE.

HEY, CHECK OUT THE SIGN.

Woodbury 1
Fayetteville 31
Atlanta 53

HM. MY MONEY IS ON *WOODBURY*-- MAYBE THEY'RE HOLED UP IN A STORE OR SOMETHING THERE.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO *FIND OUT.*

WHEN YOUR FATHER GETS BACK, WE'RE GOING TO START MOVING OUT INTO THE CELLS AROUND US. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR OWN ROOM. THAT'LL BE COOL, RIGHT?

YEAH.

GOODNIGHT, SON.

MOM--YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO ***WORRIED*** ABOUT DAD. YOU KNOW THAT-- RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CARL?

EVERY TIME DAD LEAVES YOU GET ***REALLY*** UPSET AND WORRIED BUT ***EVERY*** TIME HE GOES SOMEWHERE HE ALWAYS COMES BACK ***FINE.***

IF HE ALWAYS COMES BACK WITHOUT GETTING HURT THERE'S NO ***REASON*** TO WORRY.

I KNOW, SON. I'M NOT WORRIED.

SO--WE STAY OUT HERE *ALL NIGHT?*

IF WE *HAVE* TO. I DON'T WANT THEM TO BE *TRAPPED* OUT THERE IF THEY *DO* COME BACK TONIGHT. YOU UP FOR IT? YOU GOING TO BE ABLE TO STAY *AWAKE?*

YOU THINK I'VE BEEN AROUND THESE FUCKERS LONG ENOUGH TO GET COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO GO TO *SLEEP* TEN FEET AWAY FROM THEM?

NOT FUCKING LIKELY. YOU FOLLOW ME?

I DO. I DO. YOU WON'T SEE *ME* NODDING OFF. THE SMELL *ALONE* WILL KEEP ME UP.

PLUS, I'D LIKE TO BE AWAKE AND HAVE THE GATE OPEN FOR THEM IF THEY COME TEARING DOWN THAT ROAD AT US.

YOU *WORRIED* ABOUT THEM? MICHONNE? THE OTHERS?

DO I WISH THEY WERE BACK? YEAH. ABSOLUTELY. AM I *WORRIED?* NO. NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.

RICK AND GLENN CAN HOLD THEIR OWN. *RICK* ESPECIALLY--AND HE'S NOT ABOUT TO LET GLENN GET HURT. WE'VE BUTTED HEADS, BUT I STILL RESPECT THE MAN.

MICHONNE IS *FINE.* SHE WAS OUT THERE ALONE FOR *SO* LONG... I DON'T THINK SHE'LL HAVE *ANY* TROUBLE SPENDING A NIGHT OUT THERE.

MY ONLY REAL CONCERN IS WHAT'S HOLDING THEM UP--WHAT WAS AT THAT HELICOPTER THAT'S KEEPING THEM?

FUCK IF I KNOW.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE MOVING TO A-BLOCK TOO, AREN'T YOU?

YEAH. YOU?

DON'T KNOW YET. THINKING ABOUT IT. TO BE HONEST, I'M JUST ENJOYING HAVING THE *OPTION.*

I WAS A PRISONER HERE.. IT'S WEIRD HOW DIFFERENT THIS PLACE CAN BECOME JUST BY SLEEPING WITH THE CELL DOOR *OPEN.*

IT'S A NEW WORLD, MAN. IMAGINE HOW WEIRD IT MUST BE TO US TO LIVE IN A PRISON... AND COME TO CALL IT *HOME.*

WE'RE SLEEPING IN ROOMS WITH *BARS* ON ONE WALL. ALL WE SEE ALL DAY IS FENCES AND BARS AND WE'RE *HAPPIER* THAN WE'VE BEEN SINCE THIS WHOLE SHIT *STARTED.*

I WAS NEVER OUT THERE. I WAS NEVER IN DANGER, HUNTED, TERRORIZED BY THOSE THINGS. I WAS IN HERE *BEFORE* THEY CAME TO LIFE AND STARTED KILLING PEOPLE... AND I WAS IN HERE *AFTER.*

SO YEAH--IT'S A NEW WORLD, BUT GOD HELP ME...

I LIKE *THIS* WORLD *BETTER.*

DADDY?

DADDY? ARE YOU AWAKE?

I AM NOW. WHAT IS IT, MAGGIE?

GLENN'S NOT BACK YET. I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO BE BACK TONIGHT. I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO SLEEP ANYWAY BUT I HATE BEING IN THAT ROOM ALONE.

DO YOU THINK MAYBE I COULD...?

C'MON. I'LL SCOOCH ON OVER TO THE WALL.

THANKS, DADDY.

SHH, YOU'LL WAKE UP YOUR BROTHER.

WE SEEM TO BE OKAY SO FAR-- MAYBE THERE JUST AREN'T ANY ROAMERS IN THIS AREA.

THAT'D BE OUR *FIRST* BIT OF LUCK TODAY.

THEY'RE THERE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I DON'T HEAR ANY.

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING HARD ENOUGH. THEY'RE THERE--AT LEAST A *DOZEN* OF THEM AND MORE EVERY MINUTE.

YOU SURE?

THAT'S JUST HOW IT *WORKS* OUT IN THE OPEN. WE'RE PASSING THEM, WALKING RIGHT BY THEM WITHOUT NOTICING--BUT *THEY'RE* NOTICING-- AND FOLLOWING.

THEY CAN'T WALK AS *FAST* AS US, SO THE LONGER WE WALK, THE FURTHER AWAY THEY'LL BE... BUT THEY'RE *STILL* AFTER US.

WHEN WE GET TO WHEREVER IT IS WE'RE GOING, WHEN WE STOP IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY CATCH UP TO US. AND THE LONGER OUR TRIP... THE MORE THERE WILL BE.

I *KNEW* THIS WASN'T A GOOD IDEA.

WATCH IT.

HEY.

DALE? ARE YOU AWAKE?

ANDREA, HONEY. THREE OF THE ONLY PEOPLE I *KNOW* TO BE ALIVE IN THIS WORLD ARE OUT THERE IN THE WILD TONIGHT.

THEY'RE *OUTSIDE* IN THE DARK WITH ALL THOSE *THINGS* WE'VE GOT LINED UP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF OUR FENCE.

IF THEY'RE NOT DEAD *ALREADY* THEY PROBABLY WILL BE *SOON* AND THERE AIN'T A *DAMN* THING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.

SO YEAH-- I'M AWAKE, DARLING... AND I'M LIKELY TO REMAIN SO UNTIL THAT SUN CREEPS UP.

SO YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THEM?

YOU BETTER BE THANKFUL YOU'RE SO GODDAMN *CUTE.*

I'M *VERY* WORRIED ABOUT THEM.

ME TOO. I DOUBT I'LL BE GETTING A LOT OF SLEEP TONIGHT EITHER.

WELL, THAT'S NO GOOD. WE'RE ***PARENTS,*** NOW. WE GOTTA BE BRIGHT-EYED AND BUSHY-TAILED TOMORROW FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

ONE OF US IS GOING TO NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP.

SHIT. THE TWINS. I ALMOST ***FORGOT.***

CHRIST.

THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE PARENTS NOW. WE HAVE TO BE ***RESPONSIBLE.***

YOU THINK THEY'RE OKAY? SLEEPING BY THEMSELVES I MEAN?

THOSE BOYS ARE TOUGHER THAN WE THINK. KIDS, Y'KNOW, THEY CAN HANDLE A LOT MORE THAN WE GIVE THEM CREDIT FOR. ***MOST*** OF THEM ANYWAY.

THEY ASKED TO SLEEP IN THEIR OWN CELL AND SO WE LET THEM. THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. THEY DON'T NEED TO BE TOLD TO DO THINGS THEY DON'T ***WANT*** TO DO JUST YET. WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT SOON ENOUGH.

WE GOT THEM RIGHT NEXT DOOR-- GOT THE DOOR CLOSED TIGHT AND EVERYTHING. THEY'LL BE ***FINE*** UNTIL MORNING.

SOUNDS LIKE ***YOU'RE*** DOING ENOUGH WORRYING FOR THE BOTH OF US. SO, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT THIS BUSINESS OUT OF MY HEAD AND GET SOME SLEEP.

SOMEHOW.

SOMEBODY'S GOING TO HAVE TO POUR THAT CEREAL TOMORROW MORNING.

I LOVE YOU, ***DALE.*** GOOD-NIGHT.

YOU TOO, KIDDO.

WELCOME TO WOODBURY

POPULATON 1,102

WELL THIS IS *IT.*

THIS *CAN'T* BE IT--THIS PLACE LOOKS *DEAD.*

IT *IS* DEAD--THERE'S NOTHING HERE--NOTHING *ALIVE.*

CHRIST, YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

WAL★MART

WE CAN'T TURN AROUND *NOW.* WE'VE GOT TOO MANY ROAMERS ON OUR TAIL. SOME ARE AS CLOSE AS TWENTY STEPS BEHIND US.

WE CATCH ONE--MAYBE WE'D HAVE TIME TO RUB SOME PARTS ON US, MASK OUR SMELL. THAT WORKED IN ATLANTA, WE COULD GET THROUGH THEM *THEN.*

IF WE COULD DO THAT--WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE PRISON.

GOD *DAMN* IT--THAT SEEMS LIKE OUR *ONLY* HOPE. MICHONNE, CAN YOU TELL HOW FAR APART THEY ARE?

COULD WE GRAB ONE BEFORE THE REST CAUGHT UP TO US?

BLAM!

DOWN ON YOUR STOMACHS-- NOW!!

WE DON'T WANT TO SHOOT YOU BY ACCIDENT!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

NOW WALK TOWARD THE LIGHT--QUICKLY-- BEFORE ANY MORE BITERS CATCH UP TO YOU!

NOW!

WHO THE HELL *ARE* YOU? WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?

WE'RE LIVING, *MOTHER FUCKER.* NOW GET IN HERE BEFORE WE THE *ONLY* ONES.

GET THEIR WEAPONS, WES-- GUNS, KNIVES, *ALL* OF THEM. MAKE SURE THEY'RE CLEAN BEFORE THEY TAKE ANOTHER STEP INSIDE.

RIGHT, BOSS.

LET 'EM, MICHONNE-- DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'VE GOT MUCH OF A CHOICE.

WHY ARE YOU TAKING OUR WEAPONS? WE JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE IN THE HELICOPTER. YOU *SAVED* THEM RIGHT?

WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. TAKING THE WEAPONS IS FOR OUR PROTECTION. WE GET A LOT OF *CRAZIES* IN HERE.

NAME'S MARTINEZ. WELCOME TO *WOODBURY*, THE LAST LITTLE TOWN ON *EARTH*.

I'M TAKING THEM TO THE BIG MAN. I HEAR ABOUT A *BITER* GETTING SO MUCH AS *TWENTY FEET* CLOSE TO THE WALL YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT IT. CLEAN HOUSE.

YOU GUYS CAN FOLLOW ME.

I CAN TAKE IT FROM *HERE*, MARTINEZ. I'D LIKE TO ESCORT OUR GUESTS *MYSELF*.

I NEED YOU AT THE *WALL*, CLEANING OFF ALL THE BITERS THEY NO DOUBT DRUG WITH THEM.

YES, SIR, GOVERNOR. I DIDN'T KNOW *YOU'D* BE COMING OUT TO GET THEM WHEN WE GAVE WORD OF THEIR ARRIVAL.

THEY'RE ALL YOURS.

FOLLOW ME, FOLKS. I'LL GIVE YOU THE NICKEL TOUR.

GOVERNOR?

I WEAR THE TITLE WITH A *SMILE*. IT'S MORE OF A JOKE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. BUT *FUCK IT*, WHO'S OUT THERE TO SAY OTHERWISE? I ALMOST WENT WITH *PRESIDENT*--BUT I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED TOO SILLY.

ALWAYS *DID* WANT TO BE THE GOVERNOR.

SAW MY CHANCE AND I *TOOK* IT.

SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DOING THE TALKING FOR NOW--WHAT'S YOUR STORY, STRANGER?

NO STORY. WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING SINCE THE TURN. SAW THE HELICOPTER AND WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO INVESTIGATE--JUST NOT CLOSER THAN ***YOU,*** RIGHT?

BELIEVE I WAS TALKING TO THE MAN, HERE, MA'AM. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

THAT'S OUR STORY. SHIT HIT THE FAN. WE'VE BEEN WALKING EVER SINCE. WHAT ABOUT ***YOU?*** YOU SEEM TO BE HOLDING THIS PLACE DOWN PRETTY GOOD.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE HERE? A COUPLE OF ***BLOCKS*** FENCED OFF? THAT'S NICE.

FOUR BLOCKS, ACTUALLY. WE'RE WORKING ON THE FENCES FOR THE FIFTH. WE GOT ABOUT FORTY PEOPLE HERE. SEEMED LIKE WE WERE GETTING MORE EVERY DAY AT FIRST--THEN LESS--THEN ***NOTHING.*** YOU'RE THE FIRST IN A MONTH. HARD WINTER, I GUESS.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY WE ***LOST?*** THE GOVERNMENT I MEAN-- THE WAR AGAINST THE BITERS. WE DID ***LOSE,*** Y'KNOW.

PRESIDENT SENDS OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD TO SECURE THE CITIES, MAKE 'EM SAFE ZONES FOR ALL US NORMAL FOLK TO FLOCK TO. I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER THAT PART OF THE STORY.

MAIN PROBLEM THERE IS THE AVERAGE WEEKEND WARRIOR WAS WORRIED MORE ABOUT ***HIS*** WIFE AND KID THAN HE WAS ABOUT DRIVING HIS ASS TO ***ATLANTA*** TO FIGHT OFF ***CORPSES.***

WHOLE GUARD STATION ABOUT A MILE AWAY--***COMPLETELY ABANDONED.*** ALL ***KINDA*** SUPPLIES LEFT INSIDE. WE BEEN MAKING GOOD USE OF IT. NIGHT VISION GOGGLES, SNIPER RIFLES, AMMO, YOU SEEN IT IN ACTION. THIS PLACE WOULDN'T BE ***SHIT*** WITHOUT IT.

YOU SOUND LUCKY. WHERE IS IT YOU'RE TAKING US? WE'RE WALKING TOWARD THE ***LIGHT.*** WHAT IS THAT? BASEBALL GAME?

WELL, STRANGER. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ***ONLY*** ONES LUCKY AROUND HERE. YOU SHOWED UP ON THE PERFECT NIGHT.

THERE'S A ***FIGHT*** TONIGHT.

CURIOUS ABOUT ALL THE ELECTRICITY?

FUCKING ***REDNECKS.*** THEY LOVED THEIR DIRT TRACK RACING SO DAMN MUCH THEY HAD A BIG ASS ***GENERATOR*** INSTALLED. THAT WAY THEIR NIGHT RACES WOULDN'T BE INTERRUPTED BY A POWER FAILURE.

FIGHTS ARE MOSTLY DURING THE DAY. WE ONLY SAVE THE GENERATOR FOR ***SPECIAL*** OCCASIONS.

C'MON-- I'VE GOT A PRIVATE ROOM AT THE TOP. BEST SEAT IN THE ***HOUSE.***

SO WHAT? YOU MAKE THE ZOMBIES FIGHT EACH OTHER?

I'M SENSING A BIT OF DISAPPROVAL, STRANGER. IN CASE YOU AIN'T NOTICED, THE CABLE'S ***OUT.*** AIN'T A WHOLE LOT IN THE WAY OF ENTERTAINMENT TO BE HAD.

PEOPLE GET RESTLESS WITHOUT ENTERTAIN-MENT.

ZOMBIES? NO, A BITER FIGHT AIN'T NO KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT. WE GOT ***REAL LIVE PEOPLE*** GOING INTO THE CIRCLE. TWO ENTER--THEY BEAT THE HELL OUT OF EACH OTHER-- PUT ON A GOOD SHOW. BITERS ARE JUST EXTRA MOTIVATION.

YOU FENCE OFF THIS AREA--MAKE IT SAFE AND THEN CART IN A PILE OF ROAMERS FOR ***ENTERTAINMENT.*** NOT VERY ***SAFE, GOVERNOR.***

AT FIRST, YEAH-- WE HAD A FEW... ***ACCIDENTS.*** ONCE WE STARTED ***FEEDING*** THEM, THOUGH... THEY GOT PRETTY DOCILE. NOT MUCH OF A THREAT NOW.

YOU SERIOUS?

BRUCE, CLOSE THAT DOOR, PLEASE.

WAIT-- YOU'RE ***FEEDING*** THEM? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ***FEEDING*** THEM?

WELL, *STRANGER.*

WE'RE FEEDING THEM *STRANGERS.*

the story continues monthly in

THE WALKING DEAD

BOB FINGERMAN

MAXIMUM MINIMUM WAGE

image

MARCH

WHO'S NEXT

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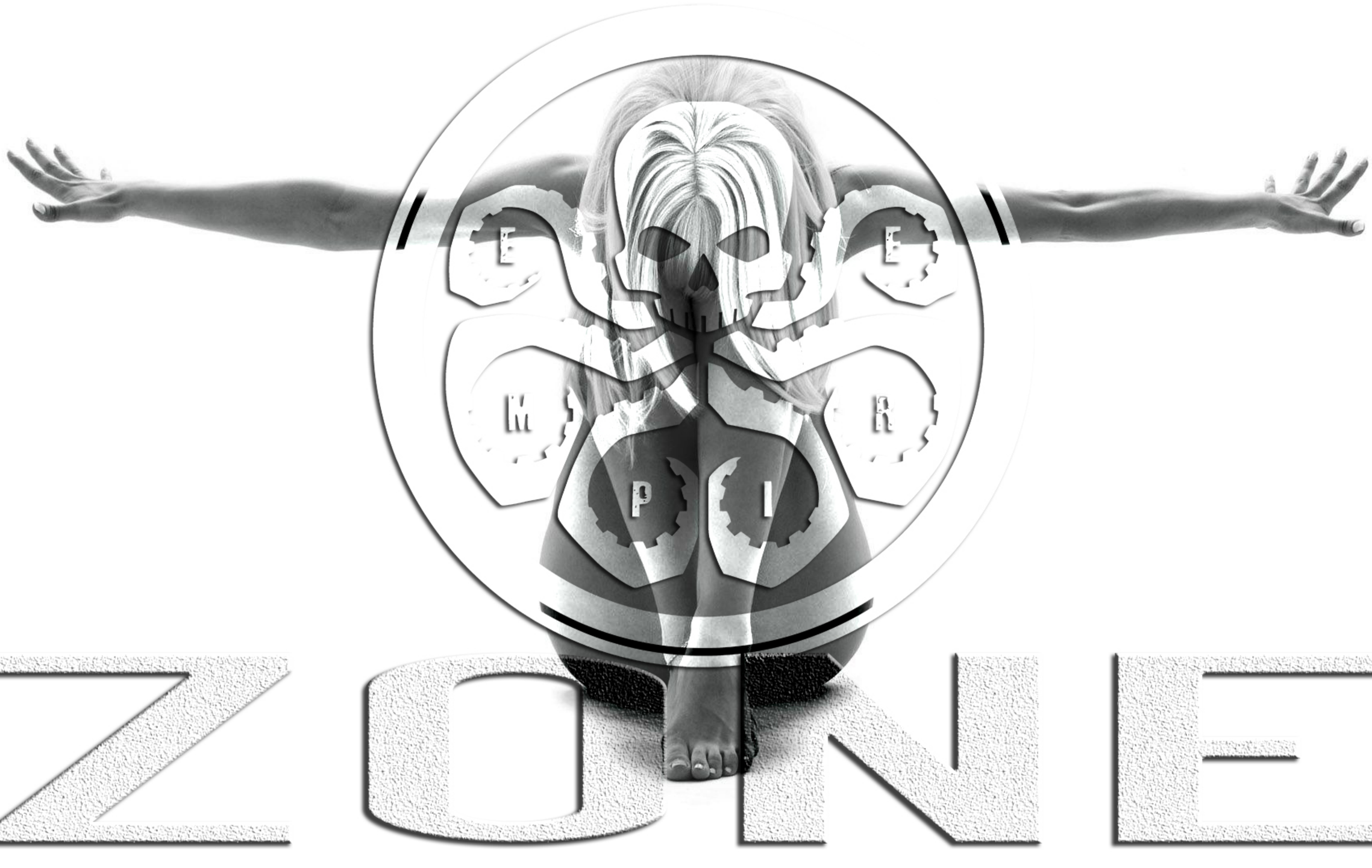

ZONE